

U.S. Serial No. 09/888,920  
Amendment to Office Action dated May 26, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1-26 (Canceled)

27. (Currently Amended) A catheter tube hub comprising: having a lumen therethrough and a proximal and distal portion,  
[[the]] a proximal portion being configured as a connector;  
[[the]] a distal portion being configured as a strain relief; and  
[[the]] a lumen extending through the proximal and distal portions; the lumen being configured to receive [[the]] a catheter tube;  
wherein the strain relief includes a generally helical wall defining a passage for receiving a catheter tube the lumen, the helical wall having a plurality of bends separated by spaces, wherein the spaces extend into the lumen passage.

28. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the average thickness of the proximal portion is thicker than the average thickness of the distal portion.

29. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the thickness of the helical wall generally decreases distally.

30. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 27, wherein a plurality of grooves extend into the passage wall generally transversely toward the passage.

31. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 27, wherein the width of the grooves increases distally.

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32. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 27, wherein the thickness between the grooves decreases distally.

33. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 27, wherein the grooves extend through the wall into the passage.

34. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 30, wherein the grooves are disposed in a plurality of sets, each set including two grooves, the two grooves within each set being disposed generally within the same plane to define a transverse hinge in the strain relief.

35. (Currently Amended) The hub of claim 29, wherein the helical wall extends from proximate [[the]] a proximal end of the distal portion to proximate [[the]] a distal end of the distal portion.

36. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the connector is a threaded connector.

37. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the hub includes transversely extending wings.

38. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the hub is made of nylon.

39. (Previously Presented) The hub of claim 27, wherein the hub is made of polyether block amide polymer (PEBA).

40. (Withdrawn) The hub of claim 27, wherein a lumen extends at an angle from the proximal portion of the hub and connects with the lumen therein.

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41. (New) A catheter tube hub comprising:  
a connector;  
a strain relief; and  
a lumen extending through the connector and strain relief; the lumen configured to receive a catheter tube;

wherein the strain relief includes a generally helical wall defining the lumen, the helical wall having a plurality of bends separated by spaces that extend into the lumen.

42. (New) The catheter tube hub of claim 41, wherein the strain relief has distal and proximal ends, wherein the helical wall extends at least partially between the distal and proximal ends.

43. (New) The catheter tube hub of claim 41, wherein the lumen is configured to slidably receive a catheter tube.

44. (New) The catheter tube hub of claim 42, wherein the helical wall has a thickness that generally decreases toward the distal end.

45. (New) The catheter tube hub of claim 42, wherein the strain relief has a height that generally decreases toward the distal end.